

Message Text

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O P 110029Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
INFO USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119858

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT:LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM - CONTINUED RESERVATIONS
BY NATIONS

1. DEFMIN CAN HARDLY HAVE PRODUCTIVE LTDP DISCUSSION
AT DPC MEETING MAY 18-19 WITH 101 RESERVATIONS IN THE FORM
OF FOOTNOTES AND BRACKETS BEFORE THEM. A HIGH PROPORTION
OF THESE ARE NON-SUBSTANTIVE, E.G., DUPLICATIVE AND AD
REFERENDUM SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY CAPITALS.
THEREFORE, WE SEE AS IMPERATIVE A MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORT
IN BRUSSELS AND CAPITALS TO GET ALLIES TO WITHDRAW AS
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MANY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE DPC. EMBASSIES AND USNATO
SHOULD SUGGEST THAT NATIONS OFFICIALLY NOTIFY SECRETARY
GENERAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH FOOTNOTES THEY CAN
DROP, SO THAT THESE DO NOT HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN AROUND
MINISTERIAL TABLE IN TIME-CONSUMING FASHION.

2. EMBASSIES SHOULD ENSURE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRIES, AS

WELL AS DEFENSE MINISTRIES, ARE AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM.
IN PARTICULAR, IMPRESS ON ALLIES THAT FOOTNOTES
WHICH SEEK TO CHANGE "AGREE" TO "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE"
AND OTHER SIMILAR CAVEATS WILL HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE
IMPACT SINCE NO ONE IS BEING ASKED TO SIGN A BLANK CHECK

IN ANY CASE. SINCE THEY ARE ONLY AGREEING GENERALLY TO
PURSUE BROADLY SPECIFIED COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AS A
BASIS FOR LONG-TERM NATIONAL PLANNING, THERE IS
REALLY LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE REASON TO SPECIFY THAT ONE

ONLY "AGREES IN PRINCIPLE".

3. YOU SHOULD CITE US EFFORTS IN PAST AND CONTINUING
AT PRESENT TO REDUCE US FOOTNOTES AND BRACKETS. THE
TWELVE US FOOTNOTES THAT REMAIN COVER SIX AREAS OF
CONCERN, AND WE ARE WORKING TO REDUCE THEM FURTHER. IT
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OUR COUNT NOW LISTS ITALY - 26,
TURKEY - 13, BELGIUM - 12, DENMARK - 11, FRG - 10,
NORWAY - 6, UK - 4, NETHERLANDS - 4, CANADA - 3,
PORTUGAL - 0. SOME OF THESE, OF COURSE, ARE SUPPORTIVE
OF US POSITIONS AND WE WANT NATIONS TO CONTINUE WITH
THOSE.

4. WE SUGGEST USNATO URGE SYG, DSYG, AND ASYG MUMFORD
JOIN IN LOBBYING EFFORT, LEST DPC MINISTERIAL END UP A
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COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE WRANGLE. EMBASSIES MAY WISH TO
CONSULT WITH USNATO RE SPECIFICS, IF THIS WOULD
BE USEFUL IN MAKING PRESENTATION.

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